


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

DATE: April 16, 2014

SUBJECT: PCB Inspection: Public School 081 – Thaddeus Stevens
990 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11206

FROM: James S. Haklar, Ph.D. 
Environmental Engineer, Toxics Section
Pesticides & Toxic Substances Branch

TO: Susan Schulz, Chief
Toxics Section

On March 15, 2014, a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) inspection was performed at the above-referenced school. The purpose of the inspection was to ascertain the remediation status of cabinets in which fluorescent light ballasts are housed (i.e. "ballast cabinets").

The remediation work is the responsibility of the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) in conjunction with a school-wide lighting replacement project. The New York Power Authority (NYPA) is the Energy Service Company involved with the lighting replacement project. Millennium Maintenance and Electrical Contractors (Brooklyn, New York) is performing the electrical work, while Pinnacle Environmental Corporation (Carlstadt, NJ) is performing abatement/remediation activities and TRC (New York, New York) is overseeing the work.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began the inspection by presenting credentials and having a discussion with a number of NYPA and contractor/consultant representatives. Of note are the following individuals:

- Michael D. Rivera, C.E.M., Associate Conservation Engineer, NYPA
- Patrick S. de Paula, Environmental Engineer, NYPA
- Charles Walter, TRC
- Arnel Javal, TRC
- Jeremy Oestreicher, TRC

Prior to the inspection EPA issued a Notice of Inspection (see Attachment 1) via email to Mr. Philip Napolitano of the New York City Department of Education.

Background

Public School 081 is located in a building consisting of four stories and a basement. The building is masonry. The school has an enrollment of approximately 391 students and serves students in pre-kindergarten through the fifth grade as well as special education. The heating system uses steam, and window-mounted air conditioning units are used to cool the building.

There are four ballast cabinets present in this school. They are located outside of the following rooms: Room 212; Room 220; Room 309; and Room 409. At the time of the inspection old (presumed PCB) ballasts were being removed from the ballast cabinets. The ballast cabinets are decontaminated if there are indications of either a current or prior leak. The decontamination procedure involves an application of a solution known as CAPSUR, with a subsequent rinsing/wiping (to remove the CAPSUR solution). Confirmatory wipe samples are then taken to ensure compliance with a decontamination standard of 10 micrograms per 100 square centimeters.

Inspection Details

EPA observed the waste storage area. There were 4 drums of ballasts stored for disposal, with all drums to be disposed as PCB waste. The storage area appeared to comply with the requirements of 40 CFR 761.65; however, the PCB mark (M_L) was not affixed to the storage area as required under 40 CFR 761.40. By the end of the inspection multiple PCB marks were seen affixed to the storage area.

After observing the waste storage area the ballast cabinets were inspected as described below.

Ballast Cabinet Outside of Room 409: The cabinet initially contained 9 non-PCB ballasts affixed to a false back panel (this panel was removed). Staining was cleaned and wipe sampling results did not detect PCBs.

Ballast Cabinet Outside of Room 212: The cabinet contained 9 non-PCB ballasts affixed to a false back panel. There are stains on the inside of the ballast cabinet doors, indicating a prior ballast rupture.

Ballast Cabinet Outside of Room 220: The cabinet contained 9 non-PCB ballasts affixed to a false back panel. There are stains on this panel.

Ballast Cabinet Outside of Room 309: There were no ballasts present. Of the 9 ballasts only one was PCB-containing. The ballasts were affixed to a false back panel.

Conclusion

EPA concluded the inspection with a discussion of the Agency's observations. Mr. Napolitano provided follow-up correspondence on the progress of the remediation (see Attachment 2).

Attachments

1. Notice of Inspection
2. Follow-up Correspondence

Attachment 1

Notice of Inspection

Haklar, James

From: Napolitano Philip <PNapolitano2@schools.nyc.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 8:15 AM
To: Haklar, James
Subject: RE: PS 081K Inspection Notice Attached

Jim – I am in receipt of this notice.

Thank you

Philip Napolitano
Division of School Facilities

From: Haklar, James [mailto:Haklar.James@epa.gov]
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2014 7:23 AM
To: Napolitano Philip
Subject: PS 081K Inspection Notice Attached

Phil – Please confirm receipt of the notice. Thanks.

Jim

James S. Haklar, Ph.D.
Sr. PCB Disposal Specialist
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

(732) 906-6817



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460
Toxic Substances Control Act
NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Form Approved
OMB No. 2070-0007
Approval Expires 10-31-92

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response. This estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the needed data, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information to the Chief, Information Policy Branch (PM-223), US Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, marked ATTENTION: Desk Officer for EPA.

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|---|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|--|
| 1. Investigation Identification | | | 2. Time | 3. Firm Name |
| Date 3-15-14 | Inspector No. F16426 | Daily Seq. No. 7 | 10:00 | PS081 THADDEUS STEVENS |
| 4. Inspector Address U.S. EPA REGION 2 2890 WOODBRIDGE AVE EDISON, NJ 08837-3679 | | | | 5. Firm Address 990 Dekalb Ave. BRACKLYN, NY 11206 |

REASON FOR INSPECTION

Under the authority of Section 11 of the Toxic Substances Control Act:

☒ For the purpose of inspecting (including taking samples, photographs, statements, and other inspection activities) an establishment, facility, or other premises in which chemical substances or mixtures or articles containing same are manufactured, processed or stored, or held before or after their distribution in commerce (including records, files, papers, processes, controls, and facilities) and any conveyance being used to transport chemical substances, mixtures, or articles containing same in connection with their distribution in commerce (including records, files, papers, processes, controls, and facilities) bearing on whether the requirements of the Act applicable to the chemical substances, mixtures, or articles within or associated with such premises or conveyance have been complied with.

☐ In addition, this inspection extends to (Check appropriate blocks):

☐ A. Financial data

☐ D. Personnel data

☐ B. Sales data

☐ E. Research data

☐ C. Pricing data

The nature and extent of inspection of such data specified in A through E above is as follows:

Certification

I certify that the statements I have made on this form and all attachments thereto are true, accurate, and complete. I acknowledge that any knowingly false or misleading statement may be punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under applicable law.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Inspector Signature | | Recipient Signature | |
| Name JAMES HATLAR | | Name | |
| Title ENV. ENGR | Date Signed 3-15-14 | Title | Date Signed |

Attachment 2

Follow-up Correspondence

Haklar, James

From: Napolitano Philip <PNapolitano2@schools.nyc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 10:33 AM
To: Haklar, James; Gorman, John
Subject: RE: Remote ballast panel update

Good morning Gentlemen,

Here is the final update on the ballast panels at K081:

Panel outside Room 220 contained 9 non pcb ballasts with historic staining. Ballasts were removed, cabinet was cleaned and 3 wipe tests were taken. Wipe results are below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² .

Panel outside Room 212 contained 9 non pcb ballasts with historic staining. Ballasts were removed, cabinet was cleaned and 3 wipe tests were taken. Wipe results are below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² .

If you have any questions let me know

Regards,
Phil

From: Napolitano Philip
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 2:20 PM
To: "Haklar, James" (Haklar.James@epa.gov); "Gorman, John" (Gorman.John@epa.gov)
Subject: RE: Remote ballast panel update

Jim/John,

K015 - We removed 7 leaking PCB ballasts and 2 NONPCB ballasts. Cabinet was cleaned and wipes were taken. Wipe results are below the detection limit thus below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² .

Q229 - We removed 12 leaking PCB ballasts. Cabinet was cleaned and tested, 1 sample was at the detection limit, the others below the limit, thus below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² .

K081 – Panel outside Room 309 contained 1 intact pcb ballast and 8 non pcb ballasts. Ballasts were removed, cabinet was cleaned and 3 wipe tests were taken. Wipe results are below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² . I will follow up once I get the information regarding the remaining cabinets.

If you have any questions let me know

Regards,
Phil

From: Napolitano Philip
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 11:51 AM

To: 'Haklar, James' (Haklar.James@epa.gov); 'Gorman, John' (Gorman.John@epa.gov)

Subject: Remote ballast panel update

Good morning Jim and John,

We have recently discovered two additional buildings that contain remote ballast panels, K015 and Q229. We will follow the same remediation process as the other buildings. Tomorrow 3/28, DSF will inspect, clean, and replace the ballast in the panels. We will then take wipes samples following the cleaning. Please see below for quantities and locations. Additionally, I am providing you with information regarding the ongoing ballast panel work at K081.

K015 – 1 ballast panel located in the 2nd fl hallway outside room 246.

Q229 – 1 ballast panel located in the 2nd fl hallway outside room 205.

K081 – Panel outside room 409 contained 9 non pcb ballasts with evidence of historic staining. Ballasts were removed, cabinet was cleaned and 3 wipe tests were taken. All results are below the federal action level of 10 ug/cm² . I will follow up once I get the information regarding the remaining cabinets.

If you have any questions let me know

Regards,
Phil